

高等院校英语专业规划教材

高级英语教程

Advanced English (Book Two)

(二)

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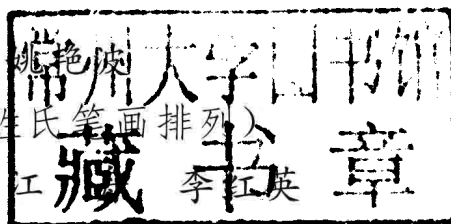
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前言

“高级英语”是英语专业本科高年级开设的一门训练学生综合英语技能,尤其是训练阅读理解、语法修辞与写作能力的课程。课程通过阅读和分析内容广泛的材料,包括涉及政治、经济、社会、语言、文学、教育、哲学等方面的名家作品,扩大学生知识面,加深学生对社会和人生的理解,培养学生对名篇的分析和欣赏能力、逻辑思维与独立思考的能力,巩固和提高学生英语语言技能。

本教程共分两册,第一册为英语专业三年级第一学期之用,第二册为三年级第二学期之用。课文全部选自英美作者的原文,我们对有些内容作了一些删节和改动,使其更适合学生的阅读。其中有些课文在国内的高校英语专业高年级中使用过,具有较强的可读性和欣赏性。本教材课文内容、题材和体裁呈现多样性,以便使学生了解和熟悉不同的文体,在提高英语技能的同时也能吸收比较广泛的知识。

本册共十单元,每单元的编写体例如下:

课文编写 每段标有段落号,便于学生做练习时提供掌握某个语言点的语境;课文之后附有生词表和词组表、作者简介、作品历史背景和课文难句以及知识点的注释等。

练习编写 每单元的练习分为两大部分,第一部分针对课文内容设

计,包括内容理解和词汇巩固两部分。其中内容理解包括判断、问题、释义、文体分析、课文段落汉译;词汇巩固包括词语解释、生词运用、运用本单元所学词语翻译汉语句子和话题讨论。第二部分为扩大知识面和进一步提高英语技能而设计,题型主要包括英语常识、校对改错、汉语段落英译、阅读理解和写作训练等,旨在帮助学生巩固词汇、增加学生的语法识别能力和应用能力,进一步提高学生英语综合应用能力。

本教材所选课文长短不一,短的六学时一单元,长的八学时一单元,教师可以根据学生的实际情况与课程进度酌情处理。

本教材是浙江海洋学院东海科学技术学院 2011 年度重点建设教材,同时也是浙江海洋学院省级教师教育基地建设成果。在编写过程中,我们参考和吸取了国内相关教材的长处,在此诚表谢忱。由于编者水平有限,时间匆促,书中错误在所难免,欢迎使用者批评指正。

编 者

2013 年 10 月

Contents

Unit 1	1
The Fine Art of Putting Things Off	1
Unit 2	25
New York	25
Unit 3	54
The Gift of the Magi	54
Unit 4	76
Obama, Romney Weigh in on Gun Control Post-Shooting	76
Unit 5	99
Winter Animals	99
Unit 6	125
Declaration of Independence	125
Unit 7	148
Pedaling Prosperity	148

Unit 8	167
A Sister's Eulogy for Steve Jobs	167
Unit 9	184
Lincoln	184
Unit 10	204
My Last Duchess	204

Unit 1

The Fine Art of Putting Things Off

Michael Demarest*

- 1 "Never put off till tomorrow," exhorted Lord Chesterfield¹ in 1749, "what you can do today." That the elegant earl never got around to marrying his son's mother² and had a bad habit of keeping worthies like Dr. Johnson³ cooling their heels for hours in an anteroom attests to the fact that even the most well-intentioned men have been postponers ever⁴. Quintus Fabius Maximus, one of the great Roman generals, was dubbed "*Cunctator*" (Delayer) for putting off battle until the last possible *vinum* break⁵. Moses pleaded a speech defect to rationalize his reluctance to deliver Jehovah's edict to Pharaoh⁶. Hamlet, of course, raised procrastination to an art form⁷.
- 2 The world is probably about evenly divided between delayers and do-it-nowers. There are those who prepare their income taxes in February⁸, prepay mortgages and serve precisely planned dinners at an ungodly 6:30 p.m. The other half dine happily on leftovers at 9 or 10, misplace bills and file for an extension of the income tax

deadline. They seldom pay credit-card bills until the apocalyptic voice of Diners threatens doom from Denver⁹. They postpone, as Faustian encounters¹⁰, visits to barbershop, dentist or doctor.

3 Yet for all the trouble procrastination may incur, delay can often inspire and revive a creative soul. Jean Kerr, author of many successful novels and plays, says that she reads every soup-can and jam-jar label in her kitchen before settling down to her typewriter. Many a writer focuses on almost anything but his task—for example, on the Coast and Geodetic Survey of Maine's Frenchman Bay and Bar Harbor, stimulating his imagination with names like Googins Ledge, Blunts Pond, Hio Hill and Burnt Porcupine, Long Porcupine, Sheep Porcupine and Bald Porcupine islands¹¹.

4 From *Cunctator's* day until this century, the art of postponement had been virtually a monopoly of the military ("Hurry up and wait"), diplomacy and the law¹². In former times, a British proconsul faced with a native uprising could comfortably ruminate about the situation with Singapore Sling¹³ in hand. Blessedly, he had no nattering Telex to order in machine guns and fresh troops. A U. S. general as late as World War II could agree with his enemy counterpart to take a sporting day off, loot the villagers' chickens and wine and go back to battle a day later. Lawyers are among the world's most addicted postponers. According to Frank Nathan, a nonpostponing Beverly Hills¹⁴ insurance salesman, "The number of attorneys who die without a will is amazing."

5 Even where there is no will, there is a way¹⁵. There is a difference, of course, between chronic procrastination and purposeful postponement, particularly in the higher echelons of business. Corporate dynamics encourage the caution that breeds delay, says Richard Manderbach, Bank of America group vice president. He notes that speedy action can be embarrassing or

extremely costly. The data explosion fortifies those seeking excuses for inaction—another report to be read, another authority to be consulted. “There is always,” says Manderbach, “a delicate edge between having enough information and too much.”

6 His point is well taken¹⁶. Bureaucratization, which flourished amid the growing burdens of government and the greater complexity of society, was designed to smother policymakers in blankets of legalism, compromise and reappraisal¹⁷—and thereby prevent hasty decisions from being made. The centralization of government that led to Watergate¹⁸ has spread to economic institutions and beyond, making procrastination a worldwide way of life. Many languages are studded with phrases that refer to putting things off—from the Spanish *mañana*¹⁹ to the Arabic *bukrafil mishmish* (literally “tomorrow in apricots,” more loosely “leave it for the soft spring weather when the apricots are blooming”).

7 Academe also takes high honors in procrastination. Bernard Sklar, a University of Southern California sociologist who churns out three to five pages of writing a day, admits that “many of my friends go through agonies when they face a blank page. There are all sorts of rationalizations: the pressure of teaching, responsibilities at home, checking out the latest book, looking up another footnote.”

8 Psychologists maintain that the most assiduous procrastinators are women, though many psychologists are (at \$50-plus an hour) pretty good delayers themselves. Dr. Ralph Greenson, a U.C.L.A. professor of clinical psychiatry (and Marilyn Monroe’s onetime shrink), takes a fairly gentle view of procrastination. “To many people,” he says, “doing something, confronting, is the moment of truth. All frightened people will then avoid the moment of truth entirely, or evade or postpone it until the last possible moment.” To

Georgia State Psychologist Joen Fagan, however, procrastination may be a kind of subliminal way of sorting the important from the trivial. "When I drag my feet, there's usually some reason," says Fagan. "I feel it, but I don't yet know the real reason."

- 9 In fact, there is a long and honorable history of procrastination to suggest that many ideas and decisions may well improve if postponed. It is something of a truism that to put off making a decision is itself a decision. The parliamentary process²⁰ is essentially a system of delay and deliberation. So, for that matter, is the creation of a great painting, or an entrée, or a book, or a building like Blenheim Palace²¹, which took the Duke of Marlborough's architects and laborers 15 years to construct. In the process, the design can mellow and marinate. Indeed, hurry can be the assassin of elegance. As T. H. White, author of *Sword in the Stone*, once wrote, time "is not meant to be devoured in an hour or a day, but to be consumed delicately and gradually and without haste".²² In other words, *pace*²³ Lord Chesterfield, what you don't necessarily have to do today, by all means put off until tomorrow.

Words List

exhort	procrastination
apocalyptic	proconsul
ruminate	nattering
echelon	fortify
bureaucratization	addicted
flourish	smother
compromise	reappraisal
academe	assiduous
shrink	confront
evade	subliminal

truism

deliberation

Idioms & Expressions

cool one's heels

attest to

churn out

drag one's feet

for that matter

mellow and marinate

Notes to the Text

* About the author:

Michael Demarest (1924—1983), U. S. journalist, was born in Long Island, New York, U. S. A., but was educated in England at Rugby and Oxford. Since World War II, he has written for newspapers and magazines. He joined *Time* in 1954. In 1970, he became an editor for *Playboy*. Mr. Demarest returned to *Time* in 1974 as a senior writer. In nearly twenty years at *Time*, he has been a foreign correspondent, editor, and senior writer. He is a member in good standing of the Procrastinators' Club of America, Inc. He collaborated with the photographer Carl Mydans on a book about a tour of China, *China: A Visual Adventure*.

1. **Lord Chesterfield:** Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield (1694—1773), English statesman, orator and author. His literary reputation rests upon his letters to his illegitimate son, Philip Stanhope, who was born in Holland in 1732. The letters, filled with wit and worldly wisdom, were published under the title *Letters to His Son* (1774). "Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today." is a quotation from Lord Chesterfield's letter to his son dated December 26, 1749.
2. **the elegant earl never got around to marrying his son's mother:** This refers to Lord Chesterfield's son's being illegitimate.

3. **Dr. Johnson:** Johnson, Samuel (1709—1784), English poet, critic, and man of letters, the literary dictator of England in the latter half of the eighteenth century and one of the most famous personalities of his time. He is best known for his Dictionary of the English language (1755), which is in some respects an innovation in lexicography. He had the strongest influence of any of his contemporaries on the literary thought and style of the latter part of the eighteenth century.
4. **the most well-intentioned men have been postponers ever:** Lord Chesterfield is said to be one of the most well-intentioned men because he exhorted us not to put off doing anything, yet he was also one of the postponers.
5. **Quintus Fabius Maximus, one of the great Roman generals, was dubbed “Cunctator” (Delayer) for putting off battle until the last possible vinum break:** Quintus Fabius Maximus Cunctator (d. 203 B. C.), Roman general whose cautious delaying tactics during the early stages of the Second Punic War (218—201 B. C.) gave Rome time to recover its strength and take the offensive against the invading Carthaginian army of Hannibal (247—163 B. C.), who swore eternal enmity to Rome. *Fabianism*, a word derived from Fabius, has come to mean a gradual or cautious policy. “The last possible vinum break” here means “the last moment possible to have some wine”. *Vinum* is Latin for wine.
6. **Moses pleaded a speech defect to rationalize his reluctance to deliver Jehovah’s edict to Pharaoh:** Moses used his speech defect as an excuse to make his unwillingness to tell Pharaoh God’s command seem reasonable.
Moses (flourished ca. 14th century to 13th century B.C.), Hebrew prophet and lawgiver, and founder of the Hebrew nation. According to the biblical account, Moses had the experience of

seeing God, who commanded him to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt to Canaan. Moses was to give this message to Pharaoh, ruler of ancient Egypt. But because Moses was a stammerer (he was said to be “slow of speech”), his brother Aaron was to be his spokesman. *Jehovah* is the name given to God in the Old Testament of the Bible.

7. **Hamlet, of course, raised procrastination to an art form:** According to an old Germanic legend, young Prince Hamlet of Denmark sees a ghost who tells him that his father the king was murdered by Claudius, Hamlet’s uncle, who now holds the throne and marries his mother. The ghost makes Hamlet swear to avenge the murder. Hamlet’s melancholy and questioning nature and his uncertainty about the ghost’s story prevent him from taking immediate action. Shakespeare, the great English dramatist, transformed the tale into a drama of great psychological and philosophical depth in about 1600.
8. **There are those who prepare their income taxes in February:** A personal income tax is a tax levied on the yearly income of individuals. In the U. S. A. , the federal and some state governments administer income taxes on a pay-as-you-earn, or withholding, basis. Employers withhold from each employee’s earnings and send to the Treasury an amount that, on an annual basis, closely approximates the tax that must be paid on his salary or wages for the year. It is at the end of the year that they must calculate their exact tax and make the necessary adjustments.
9. **the apocalyptic voice of Diners threatens doom from Denver:** a menacing order from Denver, the head office of the Diners credit card, that forebodes catastrophe. Here, *Diners* refers to the Diners’ Club, Inc., U. S. A. It was this club that introduced, in 1950, the first universal credit-card which could be used at a variety of establishments.

10. **Faustian encounters:** According to legend, Faust was a wandering scholar in Germany. He was known for his magic deeds. Goethe (1749—1832), the great German poet, dramatist, and novelist, turned the legend into a dramatic poem. In Goethe's *Faust* (1790—1831), the hero and many encounters with Mephistopheles, the devil.
11. **on the Coast and Geodetic Survey of Maine's Frenchman Bay and Bar Harbor, stimulating his imagination with names like Googins Ledge, Blunts Pond, Hio Hill and Burnt Porcupine, Long Porcupine, Sheep Porcupine and Bald Porcupine islands:** the coast survey and large area survey of... in which the curvature of the surface of the earth is taken into account. The author mentioned the names of *Frenchman Bay*, *Bar harbor* and the following fictitious place names to show that these had nothing to do with the writer's task.
12. **the art of postponement had been virtually a monopoly of the military ("Hurry up and wait"), diplomacy and the law:** the practice of putting things off had almost been exclusively done by the military, etc. The implied meaning is that the military, diplomacy, and the law are almost the worst delayers.
13. **Singapore Sling:** a sling in which cherry brandy is added to the usual gin base. *Sling* is an alcoholic drink which is usually made of whisky, brandy, or especially gin, with water, sugar and sometimes bitters.
14. **Beverly Hills:** city in southern California, completely surrounded by the city of Los Angeles.
15. **Even where there is no will, there is a way:** This is a parody of the proverb which goes: "Where there is a will, there is a way", meaning, "If one has the determination to achieve something, a way of doing so will be found."
16. **His point is well taken:** What he said is accepted as true or worthy

of attention.

17. **smother policymakers in blankets of legalism, compromise and reappraisal:** prevent policymakers from acting promptly by excessive adherence to law, by making concessions, and by making repeated assessments.

Here an effective metaphor is used to describe the harm done by bureaucratization. *Legalism*, *compromise* and *reappraisal* are said to be blankets which suffocate the policymakers so that they cannot act promptly and properly.

18. **Watergate:** referring to the series of scandals involving the administration of U. S. President Richard Nixon (1969—1972), more specifically, the burglarizing of the Democratic Party national headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex in Washington, D. C., in 1972. The antecedents of Watergate were steps taken by Nixon from 1969 to 1971 allegedly in the cause of national security. Intelligence operatives were hired by the White House. The Federal Bureau of Investigation began to tap the telephones of officials and newsmen in order to discover who was leaking secret information to the press. The term Watergate has come to denote not merely the original break-in but more or less related allegations of misconduct, including the purchase of governmental favors with campaign contributions, the use of government agencies to harass political opponents, and an extralegal intelligence unit set up in the White House.
19. **mañana:** Spanish word with the literal meaning of “tomorrow”. It is now used to mean “at an indefinite time in the future”.
20. **The parliamentary process:** In Western countries, a parliament generally has three parts: a chief of state, an upper chamber, and a lower chamber. The lower house passes laws; the upper house examines these laws and if necessary, revises them; and the head

of state then approves the laws and makes them official. In the simplest terms, a parliament operates in this way.

21. **Blenheim Palace:** name of an immense mansion built near Woodstock, Oxfordshire, Central England. It was a gift from Queen Anne (1702—1714) to the Duke of Marlborough in honor of his victories in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701—1714). The construction of the palace lasted from 1705 to 1724.
22. **time “is not meant to be devoured in an hour or a day, but to be consumed delicately and gradually and without haste”:** Time is not to be spent in a great hurry, but rather be whiled away in a slow and careful way.
23. **pace:** This is a preposition in Latin, meaning “with all due respect or deference to the person named” (in announcing a contrary opinion).

Exercises

Text Comprehension

I . Judge, according to the text, whether each of the following statements is true or false. Put a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

1. As a member in good standing of the Procrastinators' Club of America, Demarest is trying to convince readers that procrastination is a fine art that can always improve things.
2. Lord Chesterfield is said to be one of the most well-intentioned men because he never put off doing things.
3. According to the author, delay can often inspire and revive a creative soul.
4. Many lawyers die without a will because they are in the habit of delaying doing things.
5. In academic circles, procrastination is a commendable practice.